wheat to States and UTs, including Kerala are being made based on availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and past offtake. Presently, allocations under APL category are made @ 10.5 kg. per family per month to Kerala.

In 2008-09, allocation of rice was initially made @ 17056 tons per month on the basis of average of offtake in the previous two years *i.e.* 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, subsequently, on the basis of requests from the State Government and higher availability of rice in the central pool, *adhoc*/additional/festival allocations of 1.46 lakh tons of rice were made during the year. The total APL rice allocation to the State was 3.51 lakh tons as against the previous year's allocation of 3.07 lakh tons.

For the current year 2009-2010, monthly allocation of 36,056 tons of rice under APL category has been made thereby substantially increasing the annual allocation of rice to 4.33 lakh tons as compared to last year's allocation of 3.51 lakh tons. Thus the allocation of APL rice to Kerala during the current year has already been increased as compared to the previous two years.

Hunger and malnutrition

3090. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a new 'Save the Children' report states that one million infants die of malnutrition every year in India;

(b) if so, whether Government is also aware that according to a World Food Programme report released last month it has been pointed out that more than 455 million Indians survive of US $1.25 a day or less, compared with 420 million in 1981 and about 230 million people supposed to remain hungry;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to stamp out hunger and malnutrition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The report entitled "Freedom from Hunger for Children under Six" of 'Save the Children', an NGO has stated that every year, 2 million children die in India and more than half of these deaths could be prevented if children were well nourished.

As informed by World Food Programme (India), no report was released by them last month mentioning figures on hunger and malnutrition.

According to FAO's "The State of Food Insecurity in the World" – 2008 report, the number of under nourished people in India during 2003-05 was 230.5 million. The World Bank's Policy Research Working Paper 4703 entitled "The Developing World is Poorer than We Thought, But No less Successful in the fight against Poverty" prepared in August, 2008 has mentioned that the number of persons living below US$1.25 a day in India during 1981 were 420.5 million and in 2005 it was 455.8 million.

The problem of malnutrition is a multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature which needs to be tackled through holistic coordinated interventions in areas of food security, sanitation, safe drinking water, nutrition, family welfare and poverty alleviation. National Plan of Action on Nutrition (NPAN) implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development highlights a systematic collaboration among National Government agencies, State Governments, NGOs, private sector and the international community. NPAN is an affirmation of the Government's commitment to alleviate various forms of malnutrition and achieve an optimal state of nutrition for its people.

The steps taken by the Government to remove hunger and malnutrition include the following:—

(i) Government is allocating foodgrains @35 kg per family per month at subsidized rates for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL), and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration card holder families under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Depending upon availability of foodgrains in the Central pool, they are also allocated for APL category of population.

(ii) Under the Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) implemented by Department of Food and Public Distribution through the State Government of Orissa, in eight KBK Districts of Orissa, foodgrains (rice) at BPL rates are being allocated to State Government of Orissa for about 2 lakh beneficiaries.

(iii) To mitigate the problem of malnutrition among pre-school children, pregnant women and nursing mothers, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is being implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development in which Supplementary Nutrition is a component. Universalization of this scheme is being taken up with focus on SC/ST/Minority habitations and revision of norms of supplemental nutrition. Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) also focuses on providing nutritional supplement to adolescent girls by providing foodgrains to them. Besides, Nutrition Education, Awareness and Counseling are being taken up by that Ministry.

(iv) Another major initiative is implementation of the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) strategy of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which adopts a holistic approach to the management of the commonest causes of neonatal and childhood mortality, compounded by malnutrition.

(v) The Government also implements other intervention programmes for proper growth, development and survival of children in the country through a life cycle approach.

(vi) Besides the above, Government allocates foodgrains under different other Welfare Schemes, which include Annapurna Yojana,-Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Village Grain Bank (VGB) scheme. These schemes are intended to make available foodgrains to the targeted population to enable them to improve their nutritional level.